

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of December 26, 2016

WALK-IN AREAS

No reports this week from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek. Last reports that came in were of some hunters setting out a few duck decoys in the fields and doing well.

REGISTRATION AREA

Upland Game hunting remains open in several of the areas designated as open to upland game hunting on the 2016 access maps. However as more birds move into the area and more waterfowl hunters come out to hunt this will change. Upland game hunters are reminded to watch for the signs designating the areas as open or closed along with any waterfowl hunters in the fields. The access trails into the fields were opened up into most of the registration fields last week, The Christmas storm that went through the area has made the trails and roads icy so hunters planning on making a trip up to hunt need to use caution when traveling. We will continue to be working on making sure the trails going into the fields are accessible as best we can this week in preparation for the New Year's weekend.

Since there were no significant changes in the waterfowl population from the flight on December 14 there was not an aerial waterfowl survey conducted on the Missouri River the week before Christmas. A flight will be conducted this week, if weather in the Pierre area allows.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

There have been a few birds coming out of the Nystrom Bay and Spring Creek area this past week, however it is unknown if there have been much for pass shooting opportunities since a lot of the birds have been coming out high.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The flight of birds going out west of Ft. Pierre continues to be good with reports coming in last week of several groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having good success. Access into the fields is rather tough though with some hunters choosing to use a snowmobile, UTV or pulling a sled with decoys down the designated trails and setting up.

SUMMARY

The Christmas Day freezing rain, snow and high winds made it impossible to get up to the registration trailer without risking being stuck in the ditch somewhere along the way. One short stretch of highway had three vehicles in the ditch or stuck in a drift. We will be working on clearing the trails going into the fields this week in preparation for the New Year's weekend and should have most of the areas cleared as long as mother nature cooperates.

There will be a women's goose hunt taking place in the Pierre area on January 20, 21 and 22 for more information about this event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223- 7667. This event is limited to 12 participants with pre-registration required.

The 27th Annual South Dakota Youth Goose Hunt will be taking place on January 6, 7 and 8. This event is open to any youth ages 12-15. Requirements for this event are that all kids must have completed hunt safe education course, bring warm hunting type clothes, and a shotgun. Shells, breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday, with supper being provided on Saturday evening before the seminar. More information can be found in the flier on the GFP page.